

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): Programming interface for developing applications using a secured call between a first software element and a second software element, said programming interface being an object-oriented interface and including methods adapted to manage said secured call, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said methods belong to one only of the following classes:

a first class (ISCC) including methods of initiating said secured call,

a second class (ASCC) including methods of accepting said secured call, and

a third class (SECC) including methods for bidirectional exchange of messages via said secured call or the secured closure of said call, ~~and in that~~

wherein said three classes are structured in a hierarchy in which said first and second classes inherit from said third class.

2. (currently amended): Programming interface according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~wherein said methods conform to the GSS-API specifications of the IETF.

3. (currently amended): Method of developing applications using a secured call between a first software element and a second software element, said software elements being

object-oriented elements and using methods to manage said secured call, ~~characterized in that~~
that wherein said methods belong to one only of the following classes:

a first class (ISCC) including methods of initiating said secured call,
a second class (ASCC) including methods of accepting said secured call, and
a third class (SECC) including methods for bidirectional exchange of messages via said
secured call or the secured closure of said call, ~~and in that~~

wherein said three classes are structured in a hierarchy in which said first and second
classes inherit from said third class.

4. (currently amended): Method according to claim 1 ~~3~~ characterized in that wherein
said methods conform to the GSS-API specification of the IETF.